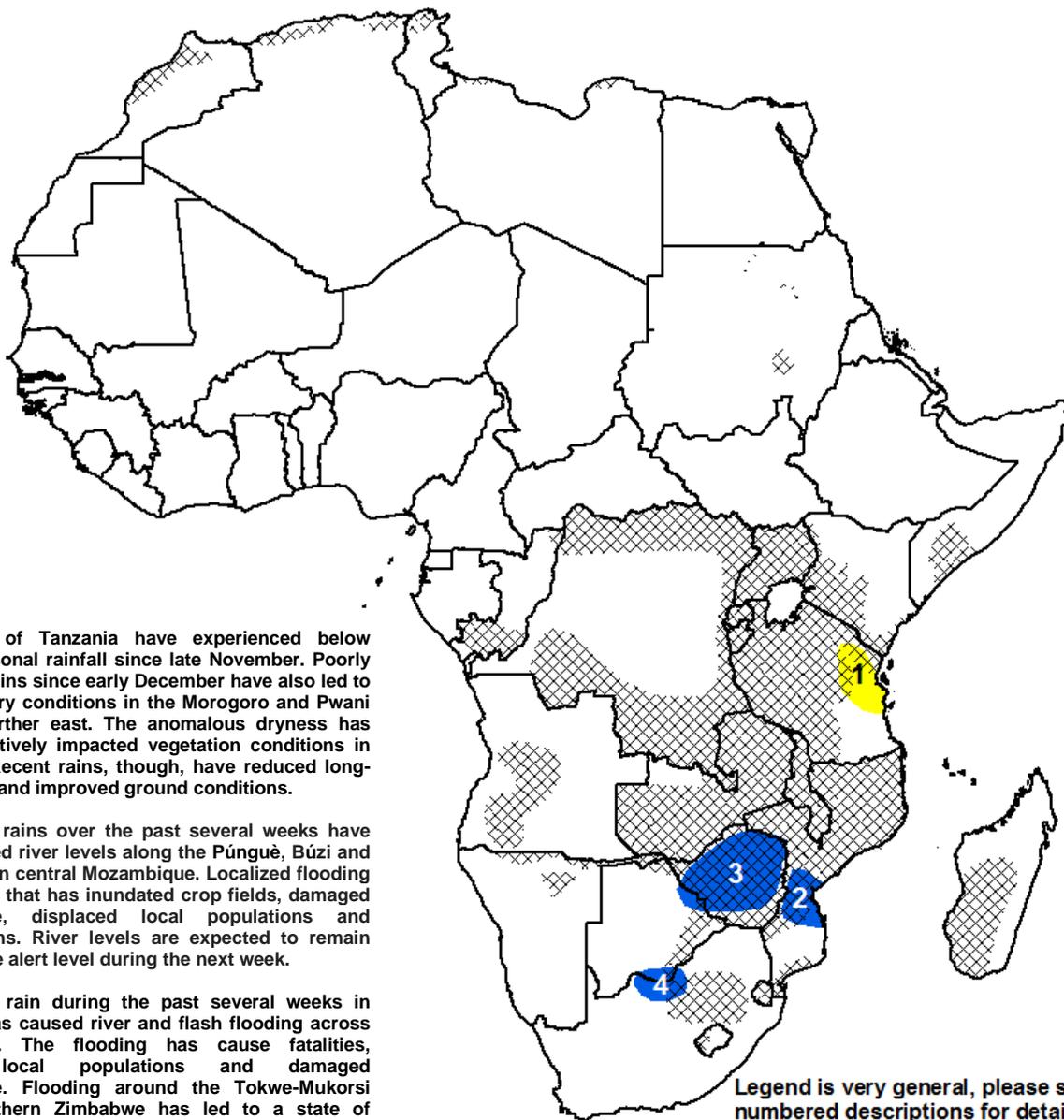




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook February 13 – February 19, 2014

- Torrential rains caused flooding across Zimbabwe during the past several weeks.



1) Portions of Tanzania have experienced below average seasonal rainfall since late November. Poorly distributed rains since early December have also led to developing dry conditions in the Morogoro and Pwani provinces further east. The anomalous dryness has already negatively impacted vegetation conditions in the region. Recent rains, though, have reduced long-term deficits and improved ground conditions.

2) Abundant rains over the past several weeks have led to elevated river levels along the Púnguè, Búzi and Save Rivers in central Mozambique. Localized flooding has occurred that has inundated crop fields, damaged infrastructure, displaced local populations and isolated towns. River levels are expected to remain near or above alert level during the next week.

3) Torrential rain during the past several weeks in Zimbabwe has caused river and flash flooding across the country. The flooding has cause fatalities, displaced local populations and damaged infrastructure. Flooding around the Tokwe-Mukorsi dam in southern Zimbabwe has led to a state of disaster declaration. With grounds saturated, the risk for localized flooding across Zimbabwe is elevated for the next week.

4) Heavy rains that occurred during the past week have flooded roads and villages in the North West province of South Africa. The floods have isolated local population and caused multiple fatalities. Any additional rainfall during the next week could cause more flooding.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

	February Cropped Areas
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Abundant rains caused flooding in Zimbabwe.

During the last week, many parts of southern Africa received heavy (>50mm) and well-distributed amounts of rain. The highest rainfall totals (>75mm) were recorded in Botswana, Zimbabwe, central/northern Mozambique, eastern Zambia, Madagascar and localized areas in southern Tanzania. The copious amounts of rain in Zimbabwe have caused flooding, especially in the Masvingo and Matabeleland North regions. The flooding has displaced local populations, damaged infrastructure, and has caused fatalities. Farther east, recent heavy rains in central Mozambique and areas upstream have resulted in elevated river levels and localized flooding along the Zambezi, Púnguè, Save and Búzi Rivers. The flooding has inundated crop fields, displaced local populations and damaged infrastructure. Elsewhere, moderate to heavy rains (>25mm) were observed in South Africa, Tanzania and eastern Namibia (**Figure 1**). Rains in the North West province of South Africa also led to flooding that caused fatalities and damages to infrastructure. In contrast, light (<10mm) and below-average rains occurred in southern Angola and northwestern Namibia.

Over the past several weeks, the rainfall pattern across southern Africa has been rather consistent. Heavy and above-average rains have increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses across central and southeastern parts of southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, southern Tanzania, Malawi and eastern Namibia. This has resulted in rainfall surpluses greater than 150% of normal over the last thirty days (**Figure 2**). The above-average rains have elevated river levels in Zimbabwe and Mozambique and caused localized flash flooding. Flooding near the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam catchment has submerged homes and resulted in a declared state of disaster in the Masvingo region. The recent increase in rains in northern Tanzania and central South Africa has reduced recent thirty-day deficits and improved ground conditions.

In contrast, rains have been below-average over southern Angola, in the Namibe, Cunene and Cuando Cubango provinces and northern Namibia. Thirty-day rainfall has been less than 80% of normal (**Figure 2**). While sporadic heavy rains during the past thirty-days have provided adequate grazing conditions for cattle, ground conditions remain below-average. Other recently dry areas, including the Morogoro, Manyara, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, and Pwani provinces of eastern Tanzania, and the North West, Gauteng, and Free States of South Africa have observed a recovery of rainfall during the past two weeks. The rains have increased ground moisture, especially in bi-modal areas in northern Tanzania.

For the next week, the heaviest rainfall (>50mm) is forecast to be across Zambia, northern Mozambique and parts of southern Tanzania. Moderate rains (10-40mm) are expected across DRC, northern Tanzania and northern Namibia. In contrast, lighter amounts of rain (<20mm) are expected in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, South Africa and central/southern Mozambique. The reduction in rainfall across southern areas will provide relief to saturate conditions as well as help stabilize or reduce elevated river levels in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In contrast, the lack of rain in southern Angola will likely increase thirty-day rainfall deficits and worsen ground conditions.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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